

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1703

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PDIP, PLO, SU
SUBJECT: PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION

1. RESIDENT PLO REPRESENTATIVE IN KHARTOUM IS KHALID RAMADAN ABU HAITHAM, WHO PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS TO FOREIGN MINISTER RASHID AL-TAHIR ON FEBRUARY 1. ABU HAITHAM REPLACED ABUL KHAYR, WHO WAS RECALLED IN LATE NOVEMBER AFTER RASHID TELEPHONED YASSER ARAFAT TO COMPLAIN OF ABUL KHAYR'S "IRRESPONSIBLE" REACTION TO NIMEIRI'S SUPPORT OF SADAT'S TRIP TO JERUSALEM. DESPITE THIS INCIDENT, SUDAN CONTINUED RECOGNITION OF PLO AND ON DECEMBER 13 TWO SUDANESE DIPLOMATS TOOK PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM NIMEIRI TO ARAFAT CONCERNING MIDDLE EAST.

2. TRUE NAME AND IDENTITY OF ABU HAITHAM ARE UNCERTAIN. HE REPORTEDLY CARRIED SUDANESE PASSPORT. PLO OFFICE IS NOT IN LATEST SUDANESE DIPLOMATIC LIST, DATED JANUARY 1975, BUT IS PERMITTED TO ASSERT DIPLOMATIC STATUS. PLO OFFICE HAS STAFF OF TWO OR THREE, INCLUDING AB HAITHAM WHO IS VERY ACTIVE IN OFFICIAL CALLS AND PUBLIC STATEMENTS. ABU HAITHAM HAS RECEIVED RESOLUTIONS OF SUPPORT AT PLO OFFICE FROM PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY, UNIVERSITY OF KHARTOUM, AND OTHERS.

3. ON MARCH 20 ABU HAITHAM HELD MEETING WITH "FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS HERE" AND EXPLAINED MAGNITUDE AND AIMS OF ISRAELI AGGRESSION AGAINST SOUTH LEBANON. DIPLOMATS PRESENT
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ALLEGEDLY AGREED TO COMMUNICATE WITH THEIR GOVERNMENTS WITH REGARD TO REQUIREMENTS OF PLO. DIPLOMATS ALSO EXPRESSED APPRECIATION TO CHINESE AMBASSADOR FOR CHINA'S AID TO PALESTINIANS. ACCORDING TO SUNA, MEETING WAS ATTENDED BY AMBASSADORS OR CHARGES FROM ALGERIA, CHINA, IRAQ, JORDAN, KUWAIT, MOROCCO, PAKISTAN, QATAR, SAUDI ARABIA, SOMALIA, SYRIA, USSR AND YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC.

4. FATAH OFFICE IN KHARTOUM WAS CLOSED FOLLOWING MARCH 1973 ASSASSINATION OF AMERICAN AMBASSADOR, AND DCM AND BELGIAN CHARGE. PALESTINIANS OPERATE LARGE FARM OUTSIDE KHARTOUM ON LAND GIVEN THEM BY SUDANGOV. THERE ARE NUMBER OF PALESTINIAN STUDENTS AT KHARTOUM UNIVERSITY ON SUDANGOV SCHOLARSHIPS. PALESTINIAN RED CRESCENT (PRC) ORGANIZED DRIVE TO COLLECT MEDICAL ASSISTANCE, CONSUMER GOODS AND MEDICAL VOLUNTEERS FOR LEBANON PALESTINIANS, ACCORDING TO DR. SAMIR AYOUB, PRC INFORMATION OFFICER MARCH 18. ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS FOR DONATIONS WAS GIVEN AS PLO OFFICE IN KHARTOUM. NO OTHER PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATION IS GIVEN OFFICIAL STATUS BY SUDAN.
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